Research work at AIIMS

*8. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Research work at AIIMS being hampered for want of animals," which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 11th June, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems highlighted by the news-item which are hampering the medical research at AIIMS?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that leading institutions including AIIMS conducting experiments on animals are facing difficulties because of various provisions of Breeding of and Experiments on Animals (Control and Supervision) Rules, 1998, prepared by Committee for the Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA) and the manner in which various decisions of CPCSEA are implemented. In AIIMS, a large number of research projects were either held up or delayed due to the objections raised by CPCSEA or its nominee in the Institutional Animals Ethics Committee (IAEC). CPCSEA nominee has very recently cleared 43 projects involving small animals. Six projects involving large animals are pending with CPCSEA for clearance for periods ranging between 1 to 2 years.

All the issues relating to role of CPCSEA on medical research and amendments to rules, procedures etc. that may be needed has been taken up with Committee of Secretaries.

Collection of property tax from Central Government assets

*9. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed, in principle, to allow the local bodies to collect property tax in respect of Central Government assets; and

(b) if so, the latest position in this regard?